

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action, dated February 3, 2004, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-27. By the present amendment, claims 1-27 have been cancelled, and new claims 28-47 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 28-47 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

A. Amendment to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification and stated that the word “is” should be deleted from the Abstract, at line 7. By the present amendment, applicant has amended the Abstract to overcome the Examiner’s objection.

Further, applicant has amended the specification to provide missing information on pages 1-3 of the specification relating to the cross-references.

B. Amendment to the Drawings

By the present amendment, applicant has amended FIG. 1 to replace the first occurrence of P1 (as shown in red in the marked-up drawing) with P2, to correct an informality. Applicant has also enclosed a Replacement Sheet for the amended FIG. 1.

C. Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1

The Examiner has rejected claim 11, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1. By the present amendment, claim 11 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the Examiner’s rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 has been rendered moot.

D. Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-27, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Aoyagi et al. By the present amendment, claims 1-27 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been rendered moot.

E. New Claims 28-47

By the present amendment, applicant has added new method claim 28, which recites: "A method of encoding a speech signal, said method comprising: processing said speech signal to generate a plurality of frames, wherein each of said plurality frames includes a plurality of subframes; coding a previous subframe of said plurality of subframes using Code-Excited Linear Prediction to generate a previous excitation signal; and applying short term enhancement using said previous excitation signal to enhance a current excitation signal for a current subframe."

This is significant, because the excitation enhancement of a current subframe is performed using data from a previous subframe and, as a result, the enhancement is accomplished without increasing bandwidth.

Furthermore, in one aspect, the short term enhancement is achieved by using a main pulse from the previous subframe to generate one or more short term enhancement pulses based on short term correlation between the previous subframe and the current subframe. In another aspect, the short term enhancement is achieved by weighting the previous excitation signal by a current weighting filter to estimate correlation peaks at a distance within the current subframe; and the current excitation signal is constructed using $P(n) = C \sum_i G_i \cdot \delta(n - Ti) + \delta(n)$, where G_i is a gain, Ti is a distance for an i th peak, and C is a coefficient.

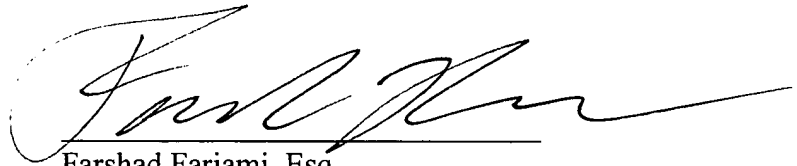
Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the invention of claim 28, and its dependent claims 29-37, should be allowed. Further,

independent claim 38, and its dependent claims 39-47, have similar limitations to those of claim 28 and its dependent claims, respectively, and should also be allowed.

F. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early allowance of claims 28-47 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
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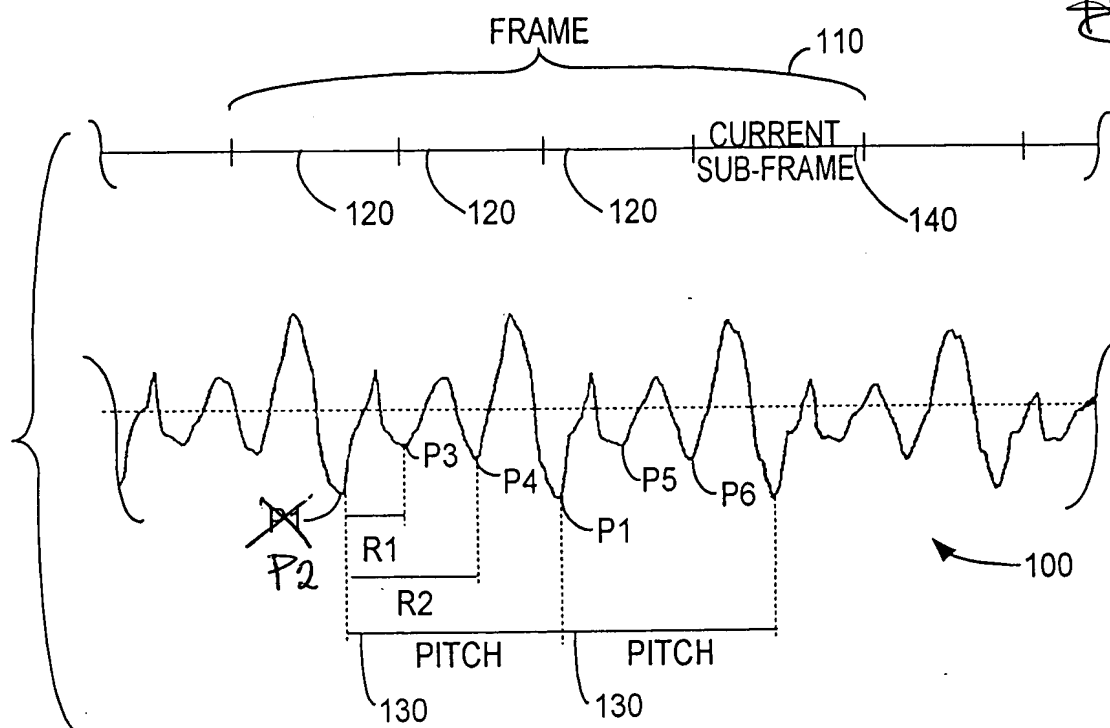


FIG. 1

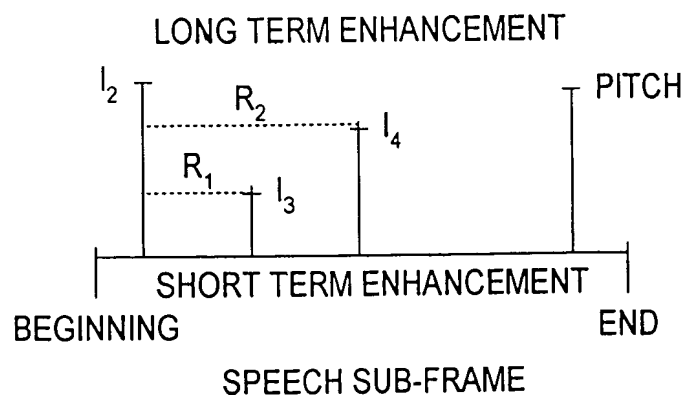


FIG. 6